

Commissioner Onkst on Kentucky Libraries

Wayne Onkst took the reigns as Kentucky's State Librarian and Commissioner on November 16th of this year. But he's not new to Kentucky libraries. A graduate of the University of Kentucky Library School, he also holds a bachelor's degree in history from the university. He served in various positions at Kenton County Public Library for over 20 years before becoming the library's director in 1999.

As director, Onkst guided the location and development of two major library branches costing \$17 million, and helped create the Kenton County Public Library Foundation. He also led a major expansion of the library's children and outreach services, and worked with Ashland Inc. to establish the "Racing to Read" program, which delivers materials to pre-school children in 35 sites throughout Kenton County. Commissioner Onkst took a few moments earlier this month to answer some questions and share his thoughts on Kentucky libraries today and in the future.



New State Librarian Wayne Onkst

What do you see as the role of public libraries in communities in our rapidly changing environment?

Today's environment provides wonderful opportunities for public libraries. Our world is definitely an information based society and we are well positioned to offer this valuable commodity in a variety of ways to meet the diverse needs of our communities. More than ever before, literacy is a foundation for effectively participating in today's society. Our libraries provide materials in various formats to meet the needs of users. In addition, creative staff members across Kentucky provide personal contact and offer services and programming that enable our citizens to learn and grow. Our libraries have also become centers of technology where users can obtain equitable access to a world of information unimaginable only a few years ago. Equally as important, library staff provide guidance in recognizing reliable sources of information. As a result libraries occupy a position of leadership within communities, directly impacting the lives of our users, making them richer, fuller, more productive, and more enjoyable. This, in

turn, positively affects the health and vibrancy of the community itself. Finally, libraries serve as a port in the storm of today's rushed, hectic, stressful world.

How is the mission and scope of KDLA making the agency viable to Kentuckians and their needs?

Even Kentucky's smallest and most remote communities are becoming part of the global marketplace for products, services, and information. KDLA's mission of "Serving Kentucky's Need to Know" enables the agency to provide a framework for networking, resource sharing, continuing education, and archival preservation and storage that assists libraries of all types in providing equitable access and opening the world of information for all citizens of the Commonwealth.

How do you see KDLA assisting libraries to help Kentuckians in living, learning, and working in the 21st century?

First, KDLA provides the link between public libraries and state government which offers financial assistance along with the foundation of laws and regulations that govern public libraries.

Second, KDLA consultants offer expertise to public libraries on various topics including technology and children's services while regional consultants work directly with public libraries in a specific geographic area to provide broad based assistance related to public library service.

Third, continuing education that meets the many needs of public library staff is planned and coordinated from KDLA. Competently trained directors and staff members are crucial for delivering quality service. Supportive, well informed trustees are important for the success of any library. In addition, the State Library housed at KDLA provides a large collection of materials to support the continuing education and information needs of library staff members across the commonwealth.

Fourth, KDLA provides assistance in the form of grants for technology, construction, and innovative services that allow libraries to explore new programs and ways of delivering services. KDLA has taken a leadership role in resource sharing and also provides funding for statewide initiatives such as the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL).

Fifth, the Talking Book program managed by KDLA serves approximately 5000 blind and physically disabled Kentuckians between the ages of 3 and 103. This service is a critical life line that allows many of these individuals to continue to productively participate in our society.

Sixth, the State Archives is the historical and legal record of Kentucky. Preservation and access of these records is important for the understanding of our state's history, the protection of our citizens' rights, and the operation of our legal system.

What do you see as the greatest challenges facing libraries in the 21st century?

1) Knowing the community, selecting areas where we can make a difference, and devising a plan that significantly impacts the community. We cannot do everything, but

we can identify specific areas where our service will have a dramatic positive impact. Making strategic decisions for using our limited resources will result in heightened visibility and increased support.

2) Developing a well trained, diverse staff and providing a comprehensive benefits and compensation package. Staff members must be able to provide service for a population with high level technology skills. Continued training is necessary in a rapidly changing, innovative environment. Adequate salaries and benefits will be necessary to attract and keep quality staff members.

3) Staying on the leading edge of technological innovations. As technology advances, our libraries must stay ahead or face the possibility of becoming obsolete.

4) Informing the community about the library and its services. Potential users are bombarded daily by a wide array of messages. We must find a way to let the community know that our resources and services offer something for everyone.

5) Of course, finding resources to manage 1-4! Finding funding for these programs and services will enable libraries to serve critical needs of the community on a daily basis.

KDLA Awards Public Library Programming Grants

The Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives has awarded Programming Grants totaling over \$60,000 for federal fiscal year 2006-2007. A variety of programs were funded, with many highly innovative and imaginative grants submitted. Programs funded were:

Barren County's Mary Wood Weldon Public Library: \$2,000.00

The library will offer a speakers' series of religion and politics around the world. The series is targeted at the adult population and will offer insight into the countries' religious beliefs and how it affects their political position. Speakers will be hired to present the topics and DVD's will be purchased for those who cannot attend the program.

Boyd County Public Library: \$2,760.00

The library will present a multigenerational (and multi-species) program designed to promote use of the Summit Branch among families with pets. The programs will include pet first aid, basic health care, and selecting a pet. Books and pamphlets on pet care will be purchased to augment the program.

Lexington Public Library: \$12,000.00

The library will create an adult summer reading program for 2007, as well as lay the groundwork for future programs. The program will be available to adults who come into the library, through virtual events and registration via the library's web-site, and through at-home kits for senior adult facilities. The library will purchase MP3 players to allow a greater range of participants.

Fulton County Public Library: \$8,100.00

The library will conduct workshops on primary and advanced genealogical research. Persons completing the workshops will be able to fill out genealogical charts and research logs properly, and will be able to properly cite sources used to obtain the information. Laptop computers with wireless capabilities and genealogical software will be purchased for the program.

Letcher County's Harry M. Caudill Memorial Public Library: \$4,321.00

The library will provide instruction for parents and caregivers on caring for infants and toddlers. The participants will learn how to use age appropriate books, songs and activities to instill a lifelong love of reading. Activities will include in-house programs and outreach programs each month. Funds will primarily be used for supplies and equipment.

Pike County Public Library: \$14,950.00

The library will provide a series of programs designed to help citizens understand and utilize historical and genealogical materials available in the library. The library will work with historical societies to help patrons enhance research methods and microfilm use. A microfilm scanner/reader and microfilm of local newspapers will be purchased.

Spencer County Public Library: \$2,313.00

The library will provide Yoga classes for children and teens. Funds will also be used to purchase CD players, a digital camera, and a wireless lapel microphone to use with the program.

Wolfe County Public Library: \$11,939.00

The library will partner with community groups to provide a multigenerational heritage project targeting middle school children. Funds will primarily be used for salaries, software and supplies.

Woodford County Public Library: \$2,500.00

The library will conduct and promote programs on health and fitness over a twelve week period. Funds will primarily be used for compensating health and fitness professionals for conducting the programs.



These projects are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. Grant recipients for Library Automation, Planning for Automation and Library Technology Innovation will be listed in the January/February 2007 issue of the Kentucky Public Library Newsletter.

‘Cross the Commonwealth

Ruth Gaylord, Assistant Manager of the **Lexington Public Library** Eagle Creek Branch, was awarded the Lyman T. Johnson Alumni “Torch of Excellence Award” by the University of Kentucky Alumni Association. She started with the Lexington Public Library in 1977 as the bookmobile driver and in 1984 became the library’s first African-American full-time professional librarian.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded the **University of Kentucky Libraries’** Agricultural Information Center (AIC) approximately \$40,000 to identify and evaluate published material on historical agricultural and rural life topics for the commonwealth. The NEH funding is part of a long-term project known as the National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature (NPPAL).

The Friends Group of the **Lee County Public Library** raised \$1,774.00 at their Annual Fund Raiser Chili/Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, November 1st. All food was donated by the community and prepared by the Friends Group and the library’s trustees. These funds will be used to help purchase T-shirts, speakers, story tellers, and treats for the library’s Spring Fest and Summer Reading Programs.

The **Boone County Public Library** celebrated with a ceremony to mark the topping off of the new main library. Residents signed the building’s dome and then watched as a crane lifted it and set it in place. The 75,000 square foot building is expected to be completed by late 2007.

Kenton County Public Library has been selected as winner of the 2006 Estela and Raúl Mora Award promoting participation in the celebration of Día de los Niños/ Día de los Libros (Day of the Children/ Day of the Books). The \$1,000 award is donated by writer Pat Mora and her three siblings in honor of their parents and was established to honor children, promote bilingual literacy and encourage reading among all children.

Mercer County Public Library held a *Purr-fect Mother and Daughter Tea* on November 14th. Children’s Librarian Kathleen Day hosted the 2nd annual tea, which featured Linda Murray, local author of the book *Kittens’ Day Out*, and the book’s illustrator Ruth Fallis Southworth.

The **Lexington Public Library** Central Library Gallery is hosting the *Shiwiar: Artifacts from a Contemporary Amazon Tribe* exhibit through Sunday, January 14. The exhibit is of authentic contemporary artifacts, including pottery, tools and blowguns from the Shiwiar tribe of Ecuador. It is sponsored by Kentucky/Ecuador Partners.

Mason County Public Library received a donation of \$758 from the Maysville Younger Women’s Club which will enable them to start a Listen and Read Collection of paired books and spoken CDs for the children’s area.

Taylor County Public Library received a \$500 grant from the Kentucky Book Fair to purchase new books for the recently expanded teen corner.

2007 Calendar of Library Events

January 19-22	American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, WA: http://www.ala.org/midwinter .
January 31	Certification Annual Summations due to Regional Office www.kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/certification.htm
February [TBA]	Kentucky Library Legislative Day in Frankfort, KY
February 21-23	Summer Reading Workshops in Frankfort, KY www.kdla.ky.gov/libsupport/children/SRP-planning.htm
February 25-March 3	Freedom to Read Week http://www.freedomtoread.ca/
March 1-3	Public Library Assoc. Spring Symposium in San Jose, CA http://www.pla.org/ala/pla/pla.htm
March 2	National Education Association's Read Across America www.nea.org/readacross/index.html
March 2-3	McConnell Literature Conference in Lexington, KY http://www.uky.edu/~smcqu2/mcconnell/confer/index.html
March 3	May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture in Lexington, KY http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/arbutnothonor/2007Lecture.htm
March 4-6	National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando, FL www.famlit.org/
March 4-6	Ohio Digital Commons for Education Conference in Columbus, OH http://www.ohn.org/conferences/ODCE2007/ODCE2007.php
March 4-10	Teen Tech Week www.ala.org/teentechweek
Mar. 22-24	Southeastern Library Association Conference in Atlanta, GA http://sela.jsu.edu/
April 1-30	National Poetry Month http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41
April 15-21	National Library Week http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.htm
April 16-18	Computers in Libraries Conference in Arlington, VA http://www.infotoday.com/cil2007/
April 16-22	Young People's Poetry Week www.cbcbooks.org/yppw/
April 20-21	Southern Kentucky Book Fest in Bowling Green, KY http://www.sokybookfest.org/
April 17	National Library Workers Day www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.html
April 19-20	Center for Summer Learning National Conference in Atlanta, GA: www.summerlearning.org
April 25-27	KPLA/KLTRT Conference in Florence, KY www.kylibasn.org/
May 1	UFIR due to Department for Local Government http://www.gold.ky.gov/downloads.htm
May 1-2	National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/LegDay07.pdf

May 10-11	Southeastern Library Network Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA: http://www.solinet.net/index.cfm
June 1	FY Budget due to County Court Clerk
June 21-27	American Library Association Conference in Washington, D.C.: http://www.ala.org/annual
July [TBA]	Public Library Trustee Forums http://www.kdla.ky.gov/organizations/klta/trusteemanual.pdf#search='kdla.ky.gov%2Forganizations%2Fklta%2Ftrusteemanual.pdf'
July 14-17	American Association of Law Librarians Conference in New Orleans, LA: http://www.aallnet.org/
August 2-5	National Conference of African-American Librarians in Fort Worth, TX: http://www.bcala.org/
August 15	FY Annual Report due to Regional Office http://collect.informata.com/
August 29	File summary financial statement with the Fiscal Court
August 29	File changes, general description of service area, and names of director and trustees with term expiration dates with County Clerk
August 29	Publish names and addresses of trustees and director with summary financial statement or location of this information available to be viewed in local newspaper
September 1-30	Library Card Sign-up Month http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/otherinit/card/librarycard.htm
September 19-22	Kentucky Library Association Conference in Louisville, KY http://www.kylibasn.org/
Sept. 29– Oct. 6	Banned Books Week http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm
October 1-31	National Book Month http://www.nationalbook.org/nbm.html
October 1	Watercraft Tax Rate due to Dept. of Property Valuation
October 1	Property Tax Rate & Property Tax Rate Certification due to County Clerk and County Judge
Oct 4-7	Library & Information Technology Association National Forum in Denver, CO http://www.ala.org/LITATemplate.cfm
October 14-20	Teen Read Week www.ala.org/ala/valsa/teenreading/trw/futuretrwdates.htm
Oct. 25-28	American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Reno, NV http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/reno2007.htm
November 1	Family Literacy Day www.famlit.org/
November 10	Kentucky Book Fair in Frankfort, KY http://www.kybookfair.com/
November 12-18	Children's Book Week www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/

Kentucky Public Library Newsletter is published bi-monthly by Field Services Division of Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Michael Jones. Phone 502-564-8300, ext. 214; Fax 502-564-5773; e-mail: michael.jones@ky.gov.

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Serving Kentucky's Need to Know
An agency of the Education Cabinet



Commissioner Onkst on Kentucky Libraries	1-3
KDLA Awards Public Library Programming Grants	3-4
'Cross the Commonwealth	5
2007 Calendar of Library Events	6-7

**Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
Green River Regional Office
450 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Ky 42301-3699**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE FORWARD